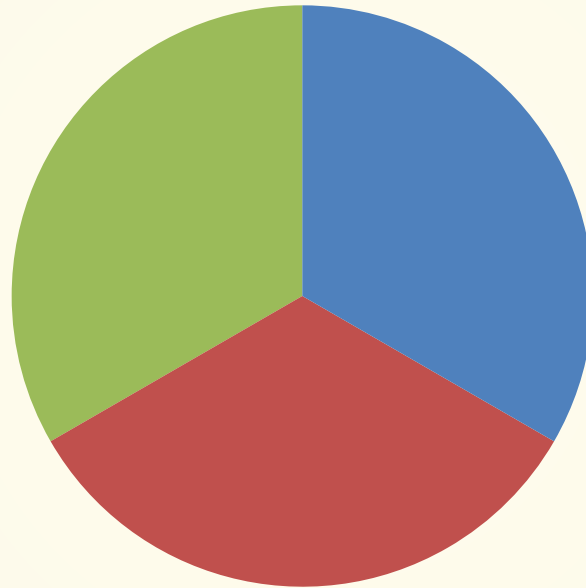


# The Perfect Storm Against Universal Public Education

## Assaults Against Universal Public Education



- Charter Schools as supported by myths of better student performance
- Budget cuts as supported by tales of state funding crisis
- Vouchers as justified by the scare tactics of violence and low student test scores

# POLICY AGENDA

WHAT ARE WE FOR?

WHAT IS OUR PROPOSED SOLUTION?

# The Policy Issue

## Best Practices Change Schools



We advocate a solution to violence in schools and to low performance scores in schools.

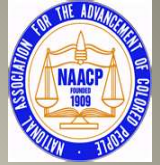
We advocate the implementation of **research based best practices** in a **trauma informed** community that follows the **restorative justice** model.

Best Practices  
Educating all Students



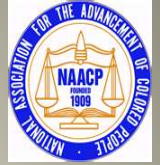
Individualized instruction  
Non-graded classrooms  
Mainstreaming students with special needs

Best Practices  
Integrated Services



Developed links to the community and to relevant community agencies that provide social and medical services

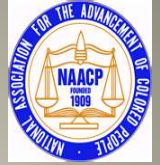
# Best Practices Use of Technology



Use of technology as a tool for learning and  
producing

# Best Practices

## Teaching for Understanding



- Problem solving and creating
- Interdisciplinary curriculums
- Cooperative learning
- Assessment of work that illustrates understanding and application

# Best Practices

## A Clear and Common Focus



Administrators, teachers, students and parents share and commit to common goals based on the belief that all students can learn and improve their performance



# Best Practice

## High Standards and Expectations



- All teachers believe that all students can learn
- Staff is dedicated to helping every student achieve
- All students are engaged in an appropriately ambitious and rigorous course of study with clear and consistent high standards
- Conditions for learning are modified and differentiated

# Best Practice

## Strong Leadership



- School leadership is focused on enhancing skills, knowledge and motivation of the overall staff
- Leader creates a common culture of high expectation
- Leader fosters a collaborative atmosphere between the school and the community

# Best Practices

## Supportive, Personalized, Relevant Learning

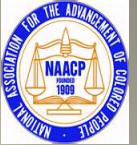


- Supportive learning environments
- Positive personalized relationships
- Rigorous and relevant learning

Best Practices  
Parent and Community Involvement



- Parents and community help develop, understand and support a common focus on core academic, social, and personal goals and have an authentic role in achieving these goals.
- School and community work together to actively solve problems.
- Mentoring and outreach programs provide a two-way learning – student and community

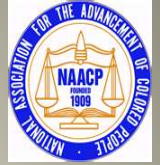


# Best Practices

## Monitoring, Accountability, and Assessment

- Teaching and learning are continually adjusted on the basis of data collected through a variety of valid and reliable methods

Best Practices  
Curriculum and Instruction



- Aligned curriculum
- Research-based teaching and learning strategies
- Students are actively involved in their learning through inquiry, in-depth learning, and performance assessments

# Best Practices

## Professional Development



- Ongoing research and class-room based professional development aligned with the school's common focus
- Appropriate instructional support and resources are provided

# Best Practices

## Time and Structure



- Flexible structure to maximize the use of time and to accommodate the varied lives of students, staff and community
- Programs extend beyond the traditional school day and year as well as beyond the building
- The school draws on community resources.





# OUR POSITION

Our children do not need further trauma through the use of :

- Metal detectors in schools
- Police in schools
- Security guards in schools

These interventions re-traumatize children.

# OUR POSITION



- Our children **do need** a trauma informed education system
- Our children do need to be seen as injured, not bad.
- The question needs to change from:  
“What is wrong with you? To What has happened to you and how can I help?” (Bloom,S. [www.sanctuaryweb.com](http://www.sanctuaryweb.com))



# OUR POSITION

Violence is never acceptable

- How we respond to the children and how they are treated is a policy issue.

# Call for Grass Roots Action

## Legislative Visit



- Organize a small group of concerned tax payers
- Share the information on vouchers
- Call and schedule a visit with both your Representative and your Senator
- **Ask** your legislators where they stand on vouchers
- **Advise** the legislators that you have strong beliefs as to the need to spend our tax dollars on best practices and on improving schools for all children.
- **Make a strong statement** that you **do not want** a voucher system – that you oppose spending tax dollars for private school tuition.

# Call for Grass Roots Action

## Phone Contact



- Organize a small group
- Share the information on vouchers
- Plan a call-in campaign to your Senator and Representative.
- Write a short script or list of talking points to guide callers during the conversation
- **Make a strong statement** that you **do not want** a voucher system – that you oppose spending tax dollars for private school tuition.
- **Call for** best practices to improve all schools
  - A list of talking points is available on-line at [www.pastatenaacp.org](http://www.pastatenaacp.org)

# Call for Grass Roots Action

## Email, FAX or a Letter by Post



- Organize a small group
- Share the information on vouchers
- Plan a letter writing campaign to your Senator and Representative.
- Write a one page communication
- **Make a strong statement** that you **do not want** a voucher system – that you oppose spending tax dollars for private school tuition.
- **Call for** best practices to improve all schools
  - A list of talking points is available on-line at [www.pastatenaacp.org](http://www.pastatenaacp.org)

# Call for Grass Roots Action

## Petitions

- Organize a small group
- Share the information on vouchers
- Plan a petition drive: community canvas, table at the mall/store/community event/club/place of worship etc
- Write a one paragraph petition and attach signature sheets
- **Make a strong statement** that you **do not want** a voucher system – that you oppose spending tax dollars for private school tuition.
- **Call for** best practices to improve all schools
  - A sample petition is available on-line at [www.pastatenaacp.org](http://www.pastatenaacp.org)

# Call for Grass Roots Action

## Inform the Governor

CONTACT THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE  
ADVISE HIM THAT THE TAX PAYERS OF  
PENNSYLVANIA HAVE SPOKEN THROUGH  
A NUMBER OF POLLS.

PENNSYLVANIANS WANT UNIVERSAL  
PUBLIC EDUCATION STRENGTHENED FOR  
ALL CHILDREN.

WE DO NOT WANT A VOUCHER SYSTEM TO  
PAY TUITION TO PRIVATE SCHOOLS!